Report No: **SLAB/2019/50**

 **Agenda Item:13**

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| **Report to:** | The Board |
| **Meeting Date:** | 23 September  |
| **Report Title** | Meetings with Outside Bodies |
| **Report Category** | For Information |
| **Issue status:** | Business as usual |

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| **Written by:** | Julie Garvey |
| **Director responsible:** | Colin Lancaster |
| **Presented by:** | N/A |
| **Contact details:** | garveyju@slab.org.uk  |

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| **Publication of the Paper** |
| This paper does not contain information of a sensitive nature and should be published. |

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| **Report** |

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT - JUSTICE**

*Scottish Government* – On 29 August Colin Lancaster and Anne Dickson met with Denise Swanson and Kieran Burke, Access to Justice, in preparation for the Expert Payment Panel meeting on 6 September.

*Expert Payment Panel* – On 6 September Colin Lancaster and Raymond McMenamin attended a meeting of the Expert Payment Panel considering the legal aid payment framework and advice for reform.

*Minister for Community Safety* – On 11 September Ray Macfarlane and Colin Lancaster had a quarterly meeting with Ash Denham, Minister for Community Safety.

*Scottish Government* – On 18 September Board officials met with representatives of the Scottish Government about matters relating to sponsorship and financial accountability.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – GENERAL**

*Scottish Government* – On 11 September Anne Dickson and Raphael Bleakley met with Denise Swanson, Alison Dewar and Laura Sexton, Access to Justice, to discuss matters relating to the Grant Funding Programme for 2020.

**LAWYERS AND REPRESENTATIVE BODIES**

*Legal Aid Review Consultation Roundtable Event* – On 20 August SLAB hosted a roundtable discussion about the key themes raised in the Scottish Government’s Legal Aid Reform consultation. Represented at the event was the Law Society of Scotland, Glasgow Bar Association, Edinburgh Bar Association, the Improvement Service, Citizens Advice Scotland and the Scottish Association of Law Centres.

*Children's Quality Assurance Committee* – On 20 August Marie-Louise Fox chaired a meeting of the Children’s Quality Assurance Committee.

*Civil Quality Assurance Committee* – On 5 September Marie-Louise Fox, Graeme Hill and Jennifer Laughland attended a meeting of the Law Society’s Civil Quality Assurance Committee.

*Law Society of Scotland* – On 16 September Ray Macfarlane and Colin Lancaster met with Alan McCreadie and Nicola Johnstone of the Law Society to hear their views on the Society’s 2020-2025 Strategy on the future of the legal profession.

**JUSTICE SECTOR BODIES**

*Justice Board* – On 22 August Colin Lancaster attended a meeting of the Justice Board. The main items discussed were Brexit readiness and Programme for Government and Spending Review. Colin also attended a meeting of the Justice Board on 19 September.

*Rape Crisis Scotland –* On 27 August Anne Dickson, Ian Dickson and Raphael Bleakley met with Sandy Brindley (Rape Crisis Scotland), Sarah Crawford (JustRight Scotland) and Kate Laverty (University of Strathclyde) to discuss matters relating to the Scottish Women's Rights Centre Legal Project.

*Parole Board for Scotland* – On 30 August Colin Lancaster, Marie-Louise Fox and Kingsley Thomas met with Colin Spivey (Chief Executive) and Ian Bryce (Legal Vice-Chair) of the Parole Board for Scotland to discuss matters relating to legal assistance for parole cases.

*Scottish Courts & Tribunal Service* - On 3 September Colin Lancaster met with Eric McQueen, Chief Executive of the Scottish Courts & Tribunal Service to discuss matters of mutual interest.

*Lord Justice Clerk's Review to improve the management of Sexual Offence Cases* – On 4 September Marie-Louise Fox attended a meeting of the Lord Justice’s Review Group set up to develop proposals to improve the system for managing sexual offence cases.

*Criminal Justice Board – CJR Steering Group* – On 5 September Marie-Louise Fox attended, on behalf of Colin Lancaster, the first meeting of the Criminal Justice Board’s Criminal Justice Reform Steering Group.

*Scottish Civil Justice Council* - On 9 September Colin Lancaster attended a meeting of the Scottish Civil Justice Council. Agenda items included Committee Membership, the Council’s Work Programme, and Proposals for rules: Policy Development.

*Justice Leaders Event* – On 18 September Ray Macfarlane, Colin Lancaster and Marie-Louise Fox attended a Justice Leaders Network Event. Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Justice addressed the meeting. Discussion items included an update on Brexit and Key Justice Challenges relating to Prisons, Victims & Witnesses and Drugs Deaths.

*Making Justice Work 1 Programme Board* – On 18 September Marie-Louise Fox attended a meeting of the MJW 1 Programme Board considering the Effective Courts and Tribunals programme.

**OTHER MEETINGS**

*Improvement Service* - On 20 August Anne Dickson and Raphael Bleakley met with Karen Carrick of the Improvement Service to discuss matters relating to funding models developed by the Improvement Service and development of the Grant Funding Programme.

*Centre For Professional Legal Studies* – On 27 August Anne Dickson and John Osborne attended a Think Tank Event at Strathclyde University on Reforming the Legal Aid System in Scotland.

*Internal Audit Review* – On 13 & 14 August Graeme Hill met with Elizabeth Humphrey, Senior Associate with Tilia Solutions as part of her review of Internal Audit. Ms Humphrey also met with Colin Lancaster and Anne Dickson umphon 13 August.